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FOR SALE

ITEMS FOR SALE - Place an item or several items for sale in the *Lucas-Sylvan News*. Up to 8 lines for \$7.00. Call (785) 525-6355.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Place a classified “Help Wanted” in the *Lucas-Sylvan News*. Up to 8 lines for \$7.00. Call (785) 525-6355.

\* NOTICE \*

BUY - SALE - TRADE - The Classified ads section of this newspaper will help you sell your item. Call us at (785) 525-6355; 1-800-286-7571; FAX (785) 525-6356 or email: [lusynews@gmail.com](mailto:lusynews@gmail.com). Let the Classified ads work for you.

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Consumer Connection

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt.

Prepare your home this Wild-fire Awareness Month

This time of year calls for preparation for many storms and hazards. May is designated as National Wildfire Awareness Month because it is the time of year that wildfire risks rise significantly due to increased heat and dryness. The Kansas Department of Insurance reminds homeowners to evaluate their property for fire risks.

“Wildfire season is upon us; risk is typically higher from about May to November” said Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. “Taking a few precautions could help you prevent or lessen potential damage.”

Some precautions to take to protect your home against wildfires:

- Keep burnable materials away from structures. It is advisable to avoid outdoor burning during this time.
- Keep your chimney clean. Think about installing a spark arrestor or check-

ing to ensure it is working properly.

- Keep at least 100 feet of garden hose attached to an outdoor faucet or spigot.
- Keep all vegetation and grass groomed within 105 feet of any structure. Make sure to pick up any sticks or scattered branches. Keep your wood pile and fuel tanks at least 30 feet from any structure.

The Kansas Forest Service provides resources on how to be prepared, how to forecast and report a wildfire and a Wild-fire Risk Assessment Portal. To access these resources, visit [www.kansasforests.org/fire\\_management/](http://www.kansasforests.org/fire_management/). If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance's Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071 or email [KDOI.complaints@ks.gov](mailto:KDOI.complaints@ks.gov).

NOTICE

All Russell County offices including the landfill will be closed Monday, May 26, 2025, in observance of Memorial Day.

Answers from Post Rock Extension

Cassie Thiessen, Post Rock Extension District Agriculture Agent,Horticulture, K-State Research and Extension

If you live in Kansas and have evergreen trees, you have probably dealt with bagworms. Most of us are familiar with their brown bags made of leaf matter that hang off trees like Christmas ornaments, and the devastating defoliation these pests can cause. By the time you see these brown bags and start to notice you have a problem, it's too late. Let's get a jump start on them this year!

Bagworms overwinter as eggs protected in the females' bags. The larvae hatch and emerge from the old bag from mid-May through the end of June. It is a continual hatch during that time period. The larvae immediately construct their own bag and begin feeding. These new bags are covered with bits of foliage, but are very small, initially only 1/25<sup>th</sup> of an inch long.

The bagworms continue feeding and growing until mid-August. Then, the larvae anchor their bags to a branch and seal themselves inside. At this point, no chemical treatment is effective because it cannot get through the barrier created by the sealed bag. The larvae pupate into adults. The males are black moths with clear wings, and the females are worm-like in appearance and remain inside their bags. The males mate with the females in their bags, the females lay the eggs in the bags and then die. The cycle is repeated with the overwintering eggs.

Most of us are familiar with bagworms in cedar and juniper trees. However, they may also attack other evergreens, such as arborvitae, spruce, and pine. They can also feed on deciduous trees and shrubs, such as: willow, maple, oak, box elder, sycamore, poplar, locust, rose, barberry, cherry, peach, and blackberry. If the bagworms defoliate one host plant, the larvae can migrate to another host plant nearby. It could be the same species or a completely different host.

Most of the time, we don't notice that a bagworm problem is present because the smaller larvae do not feed as much or as rapidly as larger larvae. Then, in a short amount of time, a tree is defoliated, seemingly overnight. Deciduous trees are better able to withstand foliar feeding damage than evergreen trees because deciduous trees can replenish their foliage faster. If evergreen trees experience successive years of heavy foliar feeding by large bagworm populations, even well-established trees could be lost.

If the previous year's bagworm feeding was severe, you should consider two insecticide applications. The first should be applied when the larvae are emerging in mid- to late-May, followed by a second application approximately 3 weeks later to get any larvae that hatched after the first treatment. If the infestation was slight, you could get by with one application in late-June. If you can only spray once per year, then the late-June spray is recommended.

Thorough spray coverage of the tree's foliage is critical for controlling these pests. Insecticides must be applied with sufficient sprayer pressure in adequate amounts of water to ensure both the interior and exterior foliage are covered. This can be difficult to do, especially on a windbreak, but it is crucial to the success of the application.

Insecticides commonly used for controlling bagworms include spinosad, acephate, cyfluthrin, or permethrin. Products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) are effective when the larvae are small.

Make sure to take precautions early this year and treat your trees before bagworms get out of hand. For more information on controlling bagworms, contact your local Post Rock District Extension office.

Kansas Farm Bureau....Insight

Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

Staying on the right side of the gate

I shut myself in the pen recently, or more correctly I shut my side-by-side in the pen recently. It had been a long day, and Jennifer and I were feeding the cows just a little bit before dark. I was opening and closing gates for her. She went through the gate after feeding the last bale and I shut it behind her only to realize I had shut myself in.

One could argue that such an incident is part of the course with me, and you would not be wrong. However, even for me this was embarrassing and puzzling. The only thing I could chalk it up to a long hard day that should have ended sooner. Fortunately for me, no one saw this little incident, well, except for all of you who are now reading about it.

I will tell you this story for two reasons. The first is to make you laugh, I don't mind if people laugh at me (with me?), sometimes a story is just too good not to tell. You are welcome. My second purpose for telling you about it is to highlight what can happen when we push ourselves a little too far. It is an easy thing to do this time of the year with all we have to do.

My mistake was the mindless closing of a gate with my transportation on the other side, however, it could have been a much more serious mistake. It only takes a split second to make a life-changing mistake and when you are fatigued that can make all the difference.

Am I saying to cut back on your work? Maybe, but I also know that cutting back is not always an option, and we

have a lot of work to get done. No, what I am saying is to pay attention to your body and know when you need to take a break, your safety depends on it.

Accidents happen, and they can be caused by malfunctions of equipment, unexpected hazards or a myriad of things but I would also bet that the root cause of a lot of farm accidents is fatigue and stress.

We have all been there. All I am asking is that when you know you have been pushed to the limit take some time and get refreshed. It's a simple solution, but it could save you a lot of money or even your life.

If you do push your limits, I hope your story is amusing and maybe even a bit embarrassing like mine. If it is, share it with me so we can laugh about it together. I am just asking you to take the extra step and be careful. The number of farmers and ranchers is getting fewer all the time and we can't afford to lose anyone else. I hope spring and summer go smoothly, and I pray that everyone stays safe. Hopefully, your worst mistake finds you on the wrong side of a gate.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

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LUCAS-SYLVAN NEWS

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